



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

March 14, 2003

CONTACT: Leslie Ridgeway (619) 685-2239

TWENTY-THREE COUNTY, HOSPITAL WORKERS RECEIVE VACCINE

Total of 47 volunteers inoculated as part of Smallpox Vaccination Plan

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency has inoculated 47 Public Health and hospital workers as part of its Smallpox Vaccination Plan, which got underway with the first round of vaccinations on Feb. 26.

A third round took place March 12, with 17 Public Health workers and six hospital workers volunteering to receive vaccinations. Hospital workers came from UCSD Medical Center and Children's Hospital.

Seven Public Health workers were vaccinated in the first round, with five more Public Health workers and 12 hospital workers vaccinated on March 7. Hospital workers were from UCSD, Scripps Healthcare, Palomar Medical Center, and University Community Hospital.

Nancy Bowen, M.D., County Public Health Officer, was in the March 12 group.

Vaccinations of hospital and Public Health workers are expected to continue through March and April. Additional hospitals are in the process of meeting certain requirements, which are expected to be met by the end of March.

These requirements include 24-hour medical care availability for volunteers who develop side effects, as well as identification of staff at each hospital facility who will check volunteers' vaccination sites for proper coverage before they start their work shifts.

Those who receive the vaccine must be carefully screened to ensure their safety.

The County received 200 doses (two vials) of vaccine from the state in early February.

Editor's note: The San Diego Health and Human Services Agency will provide regular updates on smallpox vaccinations to local news media.

###